



Fall 2003

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren

*Serving the
Families of
San Jose's
16th District*



Dear Friends,

On July 1, my California colleagues in Congress elected me Chair of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation. This is a tremendous honor and a wonderful opportunity for our region.

The delegation consists of the 33 Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives from California. It is the largest and most diverse in the U.S. House of Representatives, outnumbering all other state House delegations. The delegation provides members with information and analysis of national policy issues affecting the state of California.

Serving as the new Chair has already proven to be an interesting experience and I look forward to working with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi from neighboring San Francisco, my counterpart on the other side of the aisle, Congressman David Dreier, and our entire delegation to improve our state.

Sincerely,

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Representative Lofgren Elected to New Position Among California Delegation

As Chair of the delegation, I will work to coordinate efforts to improve our state. The many issues I plan to focus on as Chair include:

EDUCATION: One of the first priorities is making sure children have access to a quality education by ensuring that the federal government makes every resource available to help our local school districts. This includes continuing to work hard to improve both elementary and secondary education while loosening the burden of post-secondary tuition costs for students and their families.

JOBS: California's unemployment rate remains above the national average. Nowhere in California is that felt more painfully than in Santa Clara County. A recent poll said that one in three households in Santa Clara County had suffered job loss since January 2001. The situation is not improving and future efforts must focus on growing the economy with stable jobs to regain the prosperity that has been lost.



Representative Lofgren was joined by Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and fellow California colleagues in Congress to speak on her new role as delegation chair.

ENVIRONMENT: As Chair, I will continue the fight for a cleaner environment and work to pass legislation to preserve wilderness areas, clean air and water and fight the attempts to damage our precious resources. The Bush Administration's environmental record has been consistently disappointing for California but I will continue to support a variety of measures to promote environmental progress and stop some of this administration's worst policies.

HEALTHCARE: Our nation's health care system also faces challenges, with soaring health insurance premiums and a harsh economic downturn that threatens to dramatically increase the number of Americans without health insurance, particularly in

California. Building upon existing programs would reduce the ranks of the uninsured and strengthen our public health system.

APPROPRIATIONS: California is fortunate to have several Members of Congress on the House Appropriations Committee who lead the way in bringing important projects back to our state. Working together, I expect and hope that the entire delegation, both Republicans and Democrats, will join in this effort.



At Work in Washington



Representatives Lofgren and Honda discuss the achievements of the City Year program while attending breakfast for low-income children at their Spring Camp, held at San Jose's Washington Elementary School.

Fighting to Save AmeriCorps

In San Jose and in communities across the United States, AmeriCorps members are making a difference in our schools, neighborhoods, for public safety, in healthcare and the environment. The City Year program is helping to improve San Jose through projects at Anne-Darling Elementary School, Lowell Elementary School Team, Kennedy Elementary School, Third Street Community Center, K.R. Smith Elementary School, Columbia Middle School and Rodgers Middle School. They serve on projects ranging from mentoring, tutoring and teaching, to cleaning the environment and running after school programs. In his State of the Union address, President Bush proposed

an increase in the number of AmeriCorps volunteers from 50,000 to 75,000, but then reduced grants to the program by \$40 million in fiscal year 2004.

More than 50,000 Americans a year are answering the call to service through AmeriCorps, serving in over 2,100 nonprofit organizations, public agencies and faith-based organizations. The AmeriCorps program is investing in education while assisting those in need. If the Bush Administration and Congress do not help to solve AmeriCorps' financial crisis, they will damage a program that helps place young people in worthy organizations like Teach for America, Habitat for Humanity and City Year.



Affordable Housing

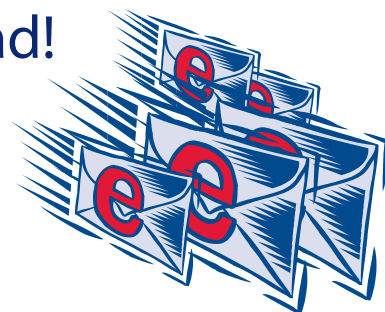
The need for affordable housing continues to grow in our district and across the country. The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act, of which I am a cosponsor, would produce, rehabilitate and preserve at least 1.5 million homes over the next ten years, generating about 1.8 million new jobs and \$50 billion in wages. I am working along with many of my Democratic colleagues

to help make private mortgage insurance tax deductible and to increase conforming loan limits that can be offered through Fannie Mae. With the cost of home ownership increasing, this Congress should be working to make the achievement of the American dream, owning a home, a reality for more Americans. Our community faces a critical need for increased employment and homeownership and this legislation would create the progress we need to work toward these efforts.

Spam Overload!

The flood of spam e-mail is growing so fast that it will soon account for over half of all e-mails sent in the United States. Today, it already accounts for nearly 40% of e-mail traffic at an annual cost to U.S. businesses of \$10 billion in lost productivity and additional equipment and software.

I introduced the REDUCE Spam Act to reduce e-mail spam that is clogging up our in-boxes with needless ads and solicitations. The "Restrict and Eliminate



Delivery of Unsolicited Commercial E-mail (REDUCE) Spam" Act would require bulk unsolicited commercial e-mail to include in its subject line the tag [ADV:]. In addition, the bill would establish a bounty for the first person to track down a spammer who violates the labeling or opt-out requirements.

Zoe Appointed to New Homeland Security Committee

In February, I was appointed to the Homeland Security Committee and have been named Senior Democrat on the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Science and Research & Development. This subcommittee is responsible for security of computer, telecommunications, information technology, industrial control, electric infrastructure and data systems, including science, research and

development related thereto; protection of government and private networks and computer systems from domestic and foreign attack; prevention of injury to civilian populations and physical infrastructure caused by cyber attack and relevant oversight. The subcommittee's Chairman, Congressman Mac Thornberry of Texas, and I are working in a bipartisan manner to address these issues.

Zoe Salutes Don Edwards, San Jose Legend

This July, I had the honor of introducing former Congressman Don Edwards when he received the Congressional Distinguished Service Award in Statuary Hall. The Awards were presented to only four former members of Congress for their distinguished and dedicated service to the nation. Prior to serving in Congress, Edwards established a business in San Jose and was also an FBI agent. A native of San Jose, he represented his hometown in Congress for 32 years, from 1963 until 1995. Don Edwards made a difference through his commitment to serve in Congress and ability to be fair, decent and honest in the fight for civil rights and civil liberties. His dedication to the law of the land gave him the nickname “the Congressman from the Constitution.” Now retired, Don Edwards continues to stand up for what is right and decent in America. Our country is better off today thanks to Don Edwards. He is not only my predecessor, but I also had the privilege to serve on his staff for eight years.



Representative Lofgren, joined by Congressional leadership, introduced former Congressman Don Edwards when he received the Congressional Distinguished Service Award in Statuary Hall for his distinguished and dedicated service to the nation.



Gabriela Saenz, a 9th grader attending James Lick High School was the winner of “An Artistic Discovery,” the 2003 Congressional Arts Competition. The painting is currently hung in the Capitol building with the winners from districts across the country.

Two of San Jose’s Future Leaders in Washington:



Andres Quintero and Naz Nami enjoyed the summer months as interns on Capitol Hill for Representative Lofgren.

Life in Washington by Naz:

My journey started with one step, my internship with Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren. I cannot describe how thankful and proud I am to belong to the 16th district of California and I believe being proud is the most important lesson I learned in Washington, DC.

I was naturalized only five months ago and it was the beginning of my interest in government. As a future voter, I felt obligated to know more about Washington, DC. The Turkish-American Association provided my scholarship and I was ready to get an internship in my representative’s office.

In the office, I helped with answering phones, running errands, sorting mail, attending briefings, writing bill memos and researching. I learned about new legislative ideas that might eventually affect me. Not only did I advance my government basics, but I was able to visit most of the Smithsonian Museums, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial, all of which are free. I have a lot of memories from my summer in Washington to share with my community and cannot wait to start my college journey this fall.



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This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

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**Hearing from me
for the first time?**

You may be hearing from me for the first time. If so, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 16th Congressional District. Every 10 years, Congressional Districts are adjusted to reflect population changes, and the districts around San Jose have changed. I hope you will call or e-mail me if I can be of service to you.

Join us for
a Town Hall
Meeting
in your
Neighborhood:

Saturday, October 11th

Town Hall Meeting Times and Locations:

1

**Hester Elementary
School**

1460 The Alameda
San Jose, CA 95126
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

2

**Selma Olinder
Elementary School**

890 East William Street
San Jose, CA 95116
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

3

**Shirakawa
Community Center**

2072 Lucretia Avenue
San Jose, CA 95122
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM